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Economic and Social Council

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Provisional summary record of the 48th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 October 2007, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Čekuolis. ..... (Lithuania)

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07-52816 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Multi-year programme of work for the 2008-2009 Annual Ministerial Reviews

1. **The President** said that, if there was no objection, he took it that the Council wished to adopt the oral decision agreed upon in informal consultations which read: "Adopts the following themes for its annual ministerial-level substantive reviews for the next two years:

- 2008: Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development and
- 2009: Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.

2. *It was so decided.*

3. **Ms. Gomes** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the Council's decision. By providing a predictable and solid work plan for the work of the high-level segment, it would enable the Secretariat to better prepare for future reviews and allow the subsidiary bodies of the Council and other relevant international and civil society organizations to make a timely contribution to such reviews. In order to maintain the required predictability, the Council should ensure that themes for future sessions were adopted two years in advance.

4. **Mr. Heidt** (United States of America) said that his delegation had been pleased to join the consensus on the decision. In preparing for the 2008 review, the Secretariat should make every effort to avoid duplication and focus on areas that could add the most value to the global development debate and should consult closely with Member States in preparing documentation. The best way of maintaining predictability of themes would be to set up a regular process whereby they were decided several years in advance.

5. **Mr. Ayub** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the spirit of compromise that had prevailed during the informal consultations. He looked forward to presentations by both developed and developing countries on the two themes.

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(g) Public administration and development (*continued*) (E/2007/44 and E/2007/L.40)

6. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2007/44) and to the draft resolution contained in document E/2007/L.40. The latter had no programme budget implications.

7. **Ms. Ayesha** (Pakistan) said that in the informal consultations it had been her understanding that the only change the draft resolution made to the one contained in the report concerned paragraph 8.

8. **Mr. González Pérez** (Cuba) said he had been under the same impression.

9. **Ms. Brown** (Canada) speaking as the facilitator of the consultations on public administration and development, said that, since indeed only paragraph 8 had been discussed, it might be advisable simply to amend paragraph 8 of the draft resolution contained in the report to read as follows: "*Further requests* the Secretariat to continue its useful role in facilitating the implementation of the relevant action lines contained in the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society". That would be accompanied by the following footnote: See World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis Agenda for the Information Society — annex, action lines C1, "The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of information and communications technologies for development" and C7, "Information and communications technology applications: e-government".

10. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in chapter I of the report (E/2007/44), as orally amended.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. *Draft resolution E/2007/L.40 was withdrawn.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (*continued*) (E/2006/45, E/2007/L.30 and L.8)

13. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the original draft resolution (E/2007/L.30) had programme budget implications that had been

brought to the Council's attention in document E/2007/L.16; additional resources in the amount of $367,000 would have been required. However, the revised draft resolution (E/2007/L.38) had no programme budget implications.

14. *Draft resolution E/2007/L.38 was adopted.*

15. *Draft resolution E/2007/L.30 was withdrawn.*

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests (*continued*) (E/2007/42 and Corr.1, E/2007/L.22/Rev.1, E/2007/L.39)

16. **The President** drew attention to document E/2007/L.39, which contained proposed amendments to the draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2007/42), and to the document containing the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in that report (E/2007/L.22/Rev.1). He took it that the Council wished to postpone action on the draft resolution.

17. *It was so decided.*

18. **Ms. Ayesha** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, drew attention to the unedited English text of a draft decision on the provision of support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and requested that it should be considered at the next session of the Council under agenda item 13 (i).

19. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session (E/2007/42).

Draft decision I: Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

20. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Dates and venue for the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

21. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

Draft decision III: Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session and provisional agenda for its eighth session

22. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to defer action on the draft decision pending its decision on the adoption of draft resolution E/2007/L.39.

23. *It was so decided.*

(k) Cartography (*continued*) (E/CONF.97/7)

24. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/CONF.97/7) and to endorse the recommendation that the eighteenth such Conference should be convened in 2009.

25. *It was so decided.*

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (E/2007/74)

26. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the note by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization transmitting the report of the Committee on World Food Security (E/2007/74).

27. *It was so decided.*

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

28. **The President** invited the Council to take action on outstanding vacancies in its subsidiary bodies for which candidatures had been received.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

29. **The President** said that the Group of African States had endorsed Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fill its two outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2008.

30. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Sustainable Development

31. **The President** said that the Group of African States had endorsed the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fill its outstanding vacancy on the Commission on Sustainable Development. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed, for a three-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's seventeenth session and expiring at the close of its nineteenth session in 2011.

32. *It was so decided.*

33. **The President** said he took it that the Council agreed to further defer the election of one member from the Group of Western European and other States for the same three-year term.

34. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

35. **The President** said that the Group of African States had endorsed the Republic of the Congo, and that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Brazil and Jamaica to fill their respective outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The Group of Western European and other States had endorsed Israel to fill one of its three outstanding vacancies on the Governing Council. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed, for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2008.

36. *It was so decided.*

37. **The President** said he took it that the Council agreed to further defer the election of one member from the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Western European and other States for the same four-year term.

38. *It was so decided.*

39. **The President** reminded the Council that there was one outstanding vacancy on the Governing Council in the Group of Asian States from the 2005 elections (Council decision 2005/201 B), for a term of office that would begin on the date of election and expire on 31 December 2008. To date, no candidature for that vacancy had been received.

The meeting rose at noon.